



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,542	08/03/2001	Daniel L. Schwarz	P-5204	6838

26253 7590 11/04/2004

DAVID W. HIGHER, VP AND CHIEF IP COUNSEL
BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY
1 BECTON DRIVE, MC 110
FRANKLIN LAKES, NJ 07417-1880

EXAMINER

SORKIN, DAVID L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1723

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/921,542

Applicant(s)

SCHWARZ ET AL.

Examiner

David L. Sorkin

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 15 October 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McNeilly (US 2,974,018). Regarding claim 1, McNeilly ('018) discloses a system comprising a sample vessel (46), which is in the form of a sample vial; a panel (68) containing an opening, a stirrer (50) within said sample vessel, wherein said stirrer includes a ferrous metal (see col. 2, lines 59-64); a magnet driver (72,76), adapted to move a magnet (for example 74) proximate to an outer surface of said sample vessel to permit said magnet to impose a magnetic influence on said ferrous metal in said stirrer to move said stirrer in said sample vessel, and wherein said magnet rotates about 90 degrees with respect to the longitudinal axis of said sample vessel (see Fig. 3). Claim 1

refers to "said openings [being] tilted with respect to the horizontal such that said sample vessels when held in said opening are tilted at an angle substantially less than 90 degrees with respect to the horizontal". However, the references to "the horizontal" do not establish orientation with respect to a claimed element, but instead "horizontal" is with respect to an element which is not part of the claimed structure, such as the surface of the Earth. Therefore, apparatus claim 1 is anticipated if the prior art device is *capable* of satisfying the intend orientation with respect to the surface of the Earth limitation. If for example "supports 12" of the device of McNeilly ('018) were placed upon a sloped surface, the intended orientation of the opening and vessel would be achieved. In summary McNeilly ('018) discloses all the positively recited structural elements of claim 1 and would be capable of being operated and oriented in the manner recited in the claim. Regarding claim 2, said magnet driver comprises a magnet shaft assembly (76) having said magnet coupled thereto; and a motor (72), adapted to move said magnet shaft assembly to move said magnet proximate to said outer surface and away from said outer surface. Regarding claim 3, the shaft assembly (76) is rotatable and said motor (72) is capable of performing the act discussed in claim 3. Regarding claim 4, the reference discloses an electric motor which intrinsically involves magnetic coupling to the shaft. Claims 6, 7, 9 and 10 further discuss what the claimed device is intend to do; however, "apparatus claims cover what a device *is*, not what a device *does*" (emphasis in original) *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Bausch & Lomb Inc.* 15 USPQ2d 1525, 1528 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Claim 8 only discusses a magnet which is not recited as

part of the claimed apparatus and therefore does not further structurally limit the claimed apparatus.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims each recited "said sample vessel holder". However, independent claim 1 has been amended to no longer require "a sample vessel holder". Therefore, the scope of claims 9 and 10 is unclear.

Response to Arguments

6. Contrary to applicant's remarks, McNeilly ('018) discloses a panel (68) having an opening. While applicant also mentions the recitations of an opening being tilted with respect to the horizontal, such a recitation does not establish an orientation with respect to a claimed element and therefore is merely an intended use of the claimed apparatus. The apparatus of McNeilly ('018) would be capable of being used in the recited manner.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David L. Sorkin whose telephone number is 571-272-1148. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 -5:30 Mon.-Fri..

Art Unit: 1723

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Sorkin

David L. Sorkin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723